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## THE PRESTON PAPERS.

(CONTINUED.)

### PROCEEDING OF OFFICERS IN BOTETOURT &C

Botetourt Court House, May 8th 1780.

At a meeting of the commanding Officers from Washington, Montgomery, Botetourt, Rockbridge & Greenbrier, The different Letters from his Exc.y the Governor being laid before us and read, wherein we are directed to concertan Expedition (1) against our Enemy Indians on the North West Side of the Ohio. Prop 1<sup>st</sup> The particular Tribes who have committed hostilities, their Numbers & Residence.

We cannot with certainty ascertain the different Tribes(2) their Number or Residence but have Reason to believe that the Shawneese, Mingoes, Hurons on this Side the Lakes, part of the Delaware, and all the others tribes inhabiting that tract of Country lying between the Ohio & Lake Erie & from the Eastern Branches of the Wabash to Vinango on the Ohio are confederater. The number of confederate tribes from the best information an about tweleve hun<sup>d</sup> Warriors exclusive of such aids as might be sent them from Detroit

2nd The proportion of your militia necessary to Encounter them.

The strength of our Militia in our different counties consist only of about three thousand-five hun<sup>d</sup> men occasioned by the Great numbers(3) who have moved to Kentucky & Carolina and that part of Washington County, taken by the Carolina line.

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(1) The proposed campaign discussed at this meeting was intended to protect the Western country from a British and Indian attack from the Northwest, which was believe to be impending and also, probably, to assist George Rogers Clark in his plan for the capture of Detroit. Continued British successes in the South during the year must have interfered greatly with any plans made.

(2) In Vo. XXIII, 345 &c, Mr David I. Bushnell, of the Bureau of Ethnology, has given an account of the varous tribes referred to here.

(3) This is only one of the numerous evidences of the constant and extensive emigration from Western Virginia to the South and the farther West.

A tenth part of which number we conceive would be too inconsiderable being only three hundred & fifty men & that it would require five hundred Militia exclusive of Col'o Crockett's (4) Batalion, from the District a part of which number would be required at different Station to keep an open Communication between y<sup>e</sup> enemy and the inhabitants & so secure a retreat if necessary. Tho' the number of the Militia in the Southwestern District is so small the Officer will endeavour to raise five hundred effective men for this service exclusive of Packhorse men, Drovers & the remainder we presume ought to be one thousand men, to be raised in the six neighboring counties and those other counties on the N<sup>h</sup> West side of the Allegany Mountains. We are of opinion that the men raised in Augusta ought to be joined to the men raised in this district, as they can march to Fort Randolph with as small an expence & Fatigue, as to Fort Pitt where the Troops of the Northern Districts ought to Rendezvous and at the same time be a means on their march to Guard their frontier from the encroachment of the Savages

3rd The Officers who shall take the Command & also proper Staff Officers. We recommend Col'o William Campbell (5) of Washington County as a proper person to command our Militia on this Expedition. Sen<sup>r</sup> Col'o; Sammel Brown of Green Bryer & Major Hugh Crockett of Botetourt the Field Officers for the Troops to be raised in their District. The commanding Officers of the Counties to oppoint the Cap'n<sup>s</sup> and Subalterns. We recommend Tho<sup>s</sup> Madison Esq<sup>r</sup> Commissary and Quarter Master to the whole Troop to be raised for the Expedition—We are of opinion that one Surgeon and a mate be appointed

(4) Lt. Col. Joseph Crockett commanded a Virginia regiment of five companies sent to reinforce Clark. This force reached him in May 1780.

(5) Colonel, afterwards General, William Campbell, the commander at Kings Mountain. Col. Samuel Brown, of Greenbrier, had lived when a boy in what is now Bath county and with an older brother had been captured by the Indians. Samuel Brown was returned in 1769; but his brother remained with the Indians and died in Michigan in 1815. (See Waddell's *Annals of Augusta County*, 188,189). Col. Samuel Brown was County Lieutenant of Greenbrier 1782. There are several letters from him in Vol. III, *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*. Major Hugh Crockett was a brother of Walter and Joseph Crockett. Thomas Madison was a son of John Madison, who was long clerk of and Burgess for Augusta County and was a brother of Governor Madison of Kentucky and of Bishop Madison. They were cousins of the President.

fall, & by April next to have a proper Body of men raised an all the frontiers including Kentucky the falls of of the Ohio with two troops of Light horse under due encouragement, by allowing the Militia engaging there in a Bounty of Land & to each Batalion—That a Brigadier Major & Adjutant for the whole troop (which service is to be performed by one person) as also our Chaplain, & two Armourers to be appointed by the Commanding Officer.

4th Supplies of Ammunition & provisions—With respect to the Provisions and Ammunition we refer to the inclosed Estimates.

5th Time & Place of Rendezvous—We are of opinion that the troops raised in this District ought to rendezvous at Walkers Meadows in Greenbrier County by the 25th of Aug<sup>t</sup> next and that and that the whole Troops in the Sevrcl Districts should Rendezvous at Fort Randorph (6) by the 10th day of Sep<sup>t</sup> next when a small Garrison ought to remain. The Operations of the Army afterwards ought to be left to the Executive or Commanding Officer of the Army. That the Western Batalion should as soon as Provisions & other necessities can be provided march to Kellys or the mouth of Elk(7) to build a small Fort there and have Sixty Canoes prepared for the purpose of Transporting Provisions down the Kanhawa when the Milita<sup>r</sup>e are on thier March.—

Notwithstanding what we have said above in obedience to the Instructions given us, we are fully of opinion that it would would be attended with more real and solid Benefit and much less Expen<sup>c</sup>e to the Commonweath in General and the frontier in particular if all on the defensive this summer by Engaging at least 200 men immediately to Garrison Fort Randolph. Fifty at Wheeling, one hun<sup>d</sup> at or near the mouth of Sandy River, one hun<sup>d</sup> & fifty at or near the mouth of Licking Creek in Kentucky County—

That Provisions, Ammunitions & every other necessary for carrying on an Expedition be purchased and procured as soon as possible and laid in at Fort Randolph & Fort Pitt next

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(6) Fort Randolph at Point Pleasant on the Ohio.

(7) "Mouth of Elk," site of the present Charleston, W. Va.

some cloathing, as a Blankett, Leggins, Etc., and the plunder of the Enemy to be ready to march by the Month of April next into the Enemy's Country & to continue to ravage the same during the whole Summer Season, by which means they would have time effectually to Chastise the Savages in all the above mentioned Tract of Country & even to attack Detroit with the assistance of a Regiment of Regulars & some pieces of Artillery, that in the mean time might be procured which never can be done by an Expedition carried on the fall Season, as we have learned by Experience, where the men are always raised in haste without having time to provide necessaries for a long march which is found to be Extremely difficult & there fore not in their power to continue a proper length of time on Duty, to render any essential Service to the Wale(?), Such an Expedition planned with Judgement & prudence & Executed with Activity Resolution & Economy would we humbly Conceive Stated the fairest chance to be attended with Success, which might by our Capital Stroke put the State in possession of that Extensive Country, Settle a lasting Peace with the Savages by reducing them to obedience, or driving them from thence and at the same time ruine and destroy the interest and Influence of our British Ememies among the many nations of Indians that inhabit the Country about the Lakes and the Banks of y<sup>e</sup> Mississippi

Wm Preston

John Boyer(8)

Arthur Campbell

Geo: Skillern

And'w Donnally

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(8) John Bowyer settled in the present Rockbridge County (then Augusta) in 1753 and was at first a school-teacher. In 1763 he was captain of Augusta militia, in 1770 one of the first justices of Botetourt, and in 1761 colonel of the Rockbridge militia and went with his command to Eastern Virginia at the time of Arnold's invasion. He died in 1806. Several of his brothers were actively engaged in military service (see Waddell's *Annals of Augusta County*, 180, 181). Col. Arthur Campbell, of Washington County, (born 1742, died 1811), was long one of the leading men on the Virginia frontier. For a note in regard to him see this magazine, VII, 126, 127. Col. George Skillern was county lieutenant of Botetourt 1781 &c. There are a number of letters from him in the *Calendar of Virginia State Papers*. Col. Andrew Donnelly settled in the western part of Greenbrier and built a fort which he successfully defended against the Indians in 1778. He was county lieutenant of Greenbrier in 1781 &c., and died about 1825.

Notwithstanding what we have said above in obedience to the Instructions we have received, we are fully of opinion that it would be with more real & Solid advantage and much less Expense to the Commonwealth in General and the Frontiers in particular to act on the Defence the on coming Summer and fall C'y on

[Endorsement] Proceedings of Officers in Botetourt  
May 1780

ARTHUR CAM<sup>i</sup>BELL TO WILLIAM PRESTON.

Goodwood June 7<sup>th</sup> 1780

Sir

An Express from Col'o Bowman(9) just now come to hand informs our that Lieut. Chaplain (who was taken prisoner when Col'o Rogers was defeated) left the Huron Town on Sandusky the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, and got to the Falls of the Ohio y<sup>e</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> of May. He informs that a Body of Regulars about 600 under Col'o Butler, of y<sup>e</sup> Irequois and upwards of 100 Indians were on their way from the Lakes, with an intention to attack the Fort at the Falls of Ohio, and the other Western forts belonging to this State over the Ohio. They are bringing Cannons with them, and are coming up the Myamis River and down Stoney River for the Big Miami Col'o Bowman has called for assistance from us of men, Ammunition and provision. Perhaps it may be best to send as much as possible of Mr. Bakers Stores out to their relief, but whether a sufficient Guard can be rais'd I am in a doubt, would you think it advisable to Order a Company out of your County with two I shall Order from this, or could Col'o Crockett's Battallion march up in time.

The young man that brings this Express says the Enemy is Expected about the middle of June. By circumstances I judge it will be the last of the month or perhaps in July The Kentucky Settlements are in great constirnation, and I understand publick management such as gives but little Satisfaction.

Please favor me with the return from Shenando or Mr. Madison as soon as an oppertinity offers, in short advice from

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(9) Probably Col. John Bowman, first county lieutenant of Kentucky county., formerly of Frederick county. There is much about the Bowsmans in English's *Conquest of the Northwest*.

you on this occasion will be every acceptable as I am puzzled what to determine for the best: The fate of Charlestown I am afraid will Encourage the Torys.

I am Sir  
Your every H'ble Serv<sup>t</sup>  
Arthur Campbell

ARTHUR CAMPBELL TO WILLIAM PRESTON.  
Goodwood June 23 1780

Sir

When I received Col. Bowman's requeſition for aſſiſtance and a ſupply of proviſion and Ammunition it was foreſeen that many difficulties were in the way but to make no effort I could neither reconcile it to my Duty or Feelings. I concluded that as Col'o Clark was to return to the Falls, it might be judged proper to ſend the moſt of the Supplys that was to be furniſhed by Mr. Baker directly over Land to him. This Order I expect by the return of the Expreſs that went to the Governor, in the meantime I wiſh'd to have every other preparation for the march pushed forward, that we might be in reaſineſs to Set out as ſoon as the Sence of the Execution was known.

Three Companies of men are now in conſiderable forwardneſs to march, and from the preſent appearance will be full and what neceſſaries that is in my power to procure will be ready in a few days, but until Mr. Baker returns nothing can be rightly done reſpecting the drove of Cattle that I expect will be ordered out, what can keep the man ſo long below I cannot divine.

I have wrote Col'o Crockett and explained my plain to him. Fifty pack Horses were directed to be purchased and from a late return of Mr. Irvines, the moſt of that number are obtained on Credit below the price ſet in our Eſtimate and none Exceeding twelve years old. Some are obtained on hire, which I wiſh to make up to fifty more. This number I expect will do to carry out this Ammunition, and Meal Sufficient for the men out.

This is the outlines of my proceedings what you may judge right or further neceſſary it will confer and obligation to communicate it.

Capt. May confirms the account of the heavy blow intended in the Western Country. Their projects very well explain the ease we have had this way for some time past: but should the Western Country be left to itself, and the Enemy prove successful we may soon feel calamities their rage always inflicts.

If intelligence I received not long since is well founded the Enemy intends ere long to offer us peace on condition each retains their possessions.

The beginning of the campaign has opened unfavourably to us and it would be an additional Humiliation to have a British Government Established on the Ohio and Mississippi.

I have omitted writing the Governor this opportunity, if there is any thing you can advise that you judge may be useful, the times seems to call for the assistance of every wise man in the State.

I am Sir

Your Humble Servant

Arthur Campbell

[Endorsed] Col. A. Campbell's Letter June 23<sup>d</sup> 1780 About Kentucky

THOMAS QUICK(10) TO WILLIAM PRESTON.

Dear Col'o

I received your letter of the 22<sup>d</sup> Instant, and should be very ready and willing to march to the Ohio with what few men I have under my Command, were they in Condition for that very necessary Service the whole of them at the lead Mines Amount to no more than Two Sergeants, and Twenty nine privates, and some of them not very fit for Service, and all without either Arms or clothing and as it is almost impossible for those men to march in time to the Assistance of Kentucky, I will be very much obliged to you to represent the same to the Governor, and to act therein as you may think fit.

I am your Obedient Serv

Col'o Preston

Thos. Querk

June 23<sup>d</sup> 1780

[Endorsement] Major Querks Letter 23 June 1780

Public Business

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(10) Thomas Quick or Quirk, a native of Ireland and resident of Augusta or Frederick counties, served as captain and major under George Rogers Clark and died in Louisville in 1803. See English, **Conquest of the Northwest**.



WALTER CROCKETT TO WILLIAM PRESTON.

June 24<sup>th</sup> 1780

Dear Col'o

I have been just informed by good Authority that the Tories have again assembled themselves near the flower Gape, and up New River that about Twenty made their appearance in the Glade or near them and robbed five men yesterday or the day, before and that to the Number of one hundred were gathered together up New River and had Murdered nine persons in this County and by a Letter from Col'o Armstrong of Surrey County North Carolina Just before me it appears, that State, is in Much the same disorder and that Numbers of the Gentlemen there are removing themselves and property. I have ordered all the Captains in the upper end of the County to meet me at the Lead Mines, without loosing a Moments time. Judging they probably might attempt destroying those important Works and as soon as a proper Number meet shall endeavour to march and attack them, whoever should be Extremely glad of your Order and advice before I march, Còl'o Armstrongs letter mentions a flag sent by the British Army to Charolotte in Mecklingburg County, but could not tell the Contents so that it appears the Torries up the River and the Enemy are at no great distance.

I am your Obedient Servant

Walter Crockett

[Endorsement] Col. W. Crockett's L<sup>r</sup> June 24 1780

Insurgents

(To be continued)